



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release October 26, 1989

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FIRST DUCK STAMP SELLS FOR RECORD AMOUNT
1989 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP CONTEST TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 6 AND 7

The very first Duck Stamp ever sold, worth \$1 in 1934, was recently purchased by a Tennessee collector for an undisclosed six figure amount, reportedly the highest price ever paid for a Federal Duck Stamp.

The valuable stamp was purchased in 1934 by its designer, J.N. "Ding" Darling, who signed his name across its face. The stamp's new owner is Jeannette Rudy of Nashville, Tennessee, who has insured it for \$300,000. Rudy purchased the stamp from Houston stamp dealer and Duck Stamp collector Bob Dumaine, who compares it with the rare 1867 one-cent Benjamin Franklin blue postage stamp which recently sold for \$450,000. "Duck Stamp collecting has now reached a new level of importance," Dumaine said.

The stamp's sale is expected to pique interest in this year's contest to choose the design for the next Duck Stamp. Six-hundred-three hopeful artists from 48 states and the District of Columbia have entered designs in the contest, which will be held November 6 and 7 in the auditorium of the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC. This year, the exhibit will also be open November 5.

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The stakes are high for the artists in the contest.

Although the winning artist receives no compensation from the Federal Government, except a pane of his or her stamps, artists can earn \$1 million or more from selling limited-edition prints of the winning design. Through this contest, the reputations of previously unknown wildlife artists have been established and those of professionals considerably enhanced.

Most Duck Stamps depict waterfowl in their natural habitat. The 1989-90 Duck Stamp, designed by artist Neal Anderson, features a pair of lesser scaup swimming out of the reeds and is now on sale for \$12.50 at U.S. Post Offices and many national wildlife refuges.

The Federal Duck Stamp program is among the most successful conservation programs ever initiated. Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan said, "The revenue from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and is used to purchase prime wetland habitat throughout the United States. These funds are the backbone of this country's efforts to acquire, protect, and restore valuable wetland habitat."

Wetlands are the single most productive habitat type for migratory waterfowl, as well as a variety of wildlife species. They also provide critical spawning areas for fish, are home to many types of flora, and are essential to flood control and maintenance of water quality.

All waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over are required to purchase a Duck Stamp each year. More and more people interested in conservation or stamp collecting are also purchasing stamps as a way to support wetlands conservation.

Since the program began in 1934, over 350 million Duck Stamp dollars have gone to preserve nearly 4 million acres of wetlands. Many of the more than 440 national wildlife refuges in the United States have been paid for entirely, or in part, by Duck Stamp revenue.

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FISH & WILDLIFE

Facts

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1989 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP CONTEST

1989 Contest Regulations

Regulations governing the annual Duck Stamp Contest were revised in 1988 to ensure that all species of North American waterfowl eventually will be represented in the Duck Stamp series, thereby increasing its collection appeal.

The number of species of North American waterfowl which artists can depict for the 1989 contest is limited to the following five:

- (1) Black-bellied Whistling Duck
- (2) Black Scoter
- (3) Spectacled Eider
- (4) Barrow's Goldeneye
- (5) Red-breasted Merganser

The five species were selected from a list of eight which have never before appeared on a Federal Duck Stamp. An attempt was made to select a combination of species whose collective ranges cover the contiguous United States and Alaska.

The contest opened July 1. All entries had to be postmarked no later than midnight, September 15, 1989. The Duck Stamp Contest judging will be held Monday and Tuesday, November 6 and 7, at the Department of the Interior Auditorium, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC. This event is free and open to the public.

Through an annual process of elimination established by the regulations, all 42 species of North American waterfowl will become part of the Duck Stamp series by 1997.

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FWS-F065

For further information, contact:

Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

(202) 343-5634

Please refer to FWS-F065 when making inquiries.

Copies of next year's Duck Stamp Contest regulations will be available in March 1990 from the Federal Duck Stamp Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Room 2058, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20240, phone: 202/343-4354.

Contest Statistics

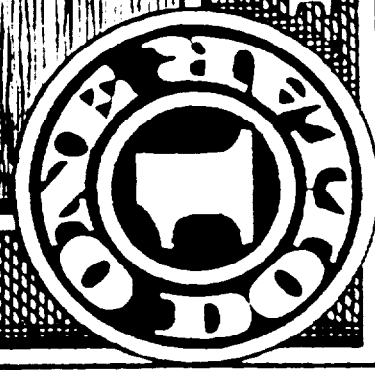
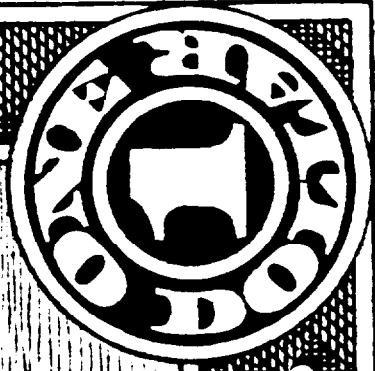
Contest Entries: 603

Male Artists	477	79%
Female Artists	126	21%
Water Color	65	11%
Oil	108	18%
Acrylic	286	47%
Scratch Board	6	1%
Other	138	23%
Barrow's Goldeneye	210	35%
Black Scoter	23	4%
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	85	14%
Red-breasted Merganser	189	31%
Spectacled Eider	96	16%

<u>STATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF ENTRIES</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF ENTRIES</u>
CALIFORNIA	46	MISSOURI	9
WISCONSIN	40	TENNESSEE	9
MINNESOTA	40	ARIZONA	8
NEW YORK	31	NEBRASKA	7
TEXAS	28	SOUTH CAROLINA	7
VIRGINIA	27	UTAH	7
FLORIDA	25	IDAHO	6
PENNSYLVANIA	24	OREGON	6
MICHIGAN	23	KANSAS	5
COLORADO	19	ARKANSAS	4
ALABAMA	15	ALASKA	4
MARYLAND	15	KENTUCKY	4
NEW JERSEY	15	MISSISSIPPI	4
OHIO	15	SOUTH DAKOTA	4
WASHINGTON	15	DELAWARE	3
GEORGIA	14	NEW MEXICO	3
IOWA	14	WYOMING	3
INDIANA	14	NEW HAMPSHIRE	2
LOUISIANA	14	WEST VIRGINIA	2
NORTH CAROLINA	13	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	1
OKLAHOMA	12	MAINE	1
ILLINOIS	11	NORTH DAKOTA	1
MASSACHUSETTS	11	NEVADA	1
MONTANA	11	VERMONT	1
CONNECTICUT	9		

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1935



First "Duck Stamp" - 1934-1935 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp
Design by: Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling